

Press-Herald

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Fulfilling a Destiny

Torrance is strutting this week and one might even hear a little bragging here and there.

With the week-long celebration at the new Del Amo Financial Center at Hawthorne Boulevard and Carson Street, the city moves a giant step toward realizing its destiny as the headquarters of the booming Southwest area.

The list of principals and tenants who are joining this week in observing official opening of the financial center is impressive. A special section of today's Press-Herald traces the development of the new complex and tells about those who have had a part in its conception and construction.

If you haven't visited any of the new facilities yet, take it from those who have. You'll be impressed. And it's only a beginning. What is represented at the corner now is one phase of a building program which is estimated to exceed \$30 million when completed during the next few years.

It also represents a tremendous real estate development, the creation of employment for a large number of people, the introduction of highly successful and influential men and firms to the Torrance community, and it will provide a magnet for others who will want to be identified with the booming Southwest.

Our hats are off to those who conceived the project and carried it forward to the point of today's dedication ceremonies. It took skill, daring, and resources in money and men.

Of such is America made.

Minimum Wage Spiral

Blame for the tragic riots of the past summer was attributed at least in part to the frustrations of the unemployed. All kinds of make-work schemes were tried, and some no doubt helped but at heavy cost to taxpayers. Ironically, jobs for many people who need help the most were legislated out of existence. Even as artificial jobs were created at taxpayer expense the federal wage and hour laws were amended to increase the minimum wage. Lost jobs have been the result.

A federal minimum wage increase to \$1.60 an hour will go into effect Feb. 1, 1968. The escalatory effect of this increase will be felt all through industry and especially in the retail distribution field. It will spur inflation and mean more lost jobs for the marginal and unskilled workers. Moreover, as the federal minimum wage rises, individual states establish their own minimum wages, often higher than the federal level.

California has proposed a state minimum wage of \$1.65 an hour—up from \$1.30. To determine the probable consequences of this increase, the California State Chamber of Commerce conducted a survey of 125 firms employing nearly 60,000 persons, over 30,000 of which are women and more than 2,000 are minors. Management of the firms indicated there will be a cutback averaging 21 per cent. This is a good example of how an excessively high minimum wage wipes out jobs.

A spokesman for a retail organization, commenting on the California proposal, declared, " . . . this increase in the minimum wage will most adversely affect those it is intended to help—unskilled and semi-skilled workers, part-time female employees, minority groups and teen-agers."

A Letter To My Son

By Tom Rische

High School Teacher and Youth Worker

Dear Bruce,
When you get older, will you like school? If you're like most kids, you will. There's an old myth that says that kids hate school, but it isn't true, at least for most youngsters. Surveys repeatedly show that about two-thirds of high school juniors and seniors (the dropout age) say they'd rather be in school than anywhere else, "most of the time." Most of the remaining third say they don't like school, "but it's necessary," while juniors and seniors (the dropout age) say they don't like school. Why? Some students are madly in love with algebra or shop or history, but most students probably enjoy school more because that's where their friends are. Most students also realize that what they are learning may well be the key to their future job success and grudgingly enjoy (though they hate to admit it) learning. Teenagers a lot younger kids spend a lot of their time griping about school because that's about all most of them have to gripe about because that's where they spend most of their time. Yours for happy schools, Your dad.

Morning Report:

The accepted line now is that Hanoi will keep on fighting — right through the Presidential election of 1968. Of course this is bad news for Lyndon Johnson, who would like to get something settled before the voting begins. But it is not necessarily good news for Hanoi.

If it's Lyndon again in '68, he will be a much meaner man to deal with than he is right now. Peace now in Vietnam would do him a lot of political good. After he wins, it will only do the country some good. He can't run a third time.

Or maybe Hanoi is betting that Lyndon will go down the drain and some Republican will win. But at this date anyway, just about all the GOP candidates are vying with each other in promising a "better war" in Vietnam. And a "better war" for us means a worse one for them.

Abe Mellinkoff



SACRAMENTO SCENE

Medi-Cal Shortage, Veto Session Top State News

Capital News Service
SACRAMENTO — The state's Medi-Cal program for public assistance recipients and the "medically indigent"—somewhere between \$600 and \$800 million a year—is in an uproar, to use an understatement.

The administration of Governor Ronald Reagan had found the program would be overspending by some \$210 million during the current fiscal year and took steps to reduce the program to fit the money available. Generally, the plan of Reagan and Spencer Williams, health and welfare administrator, was to cut and trim, rather than eliminating any full services or categories of recipients.

But Superior Judge Irving H. Perluss, of Sacramento, after a petition was filed with him, issued a permanent restraining order, preventing the administration from making the cuts. Perluss said the proposal was illegal and that about 160,000 persons in the program who do not receive public assistance should be removed.

The state will appeal, of course. Meanwhile, things are in an uncertain state. Reagan and Williams have warned doctors and vendors in the program that if they provide services or drugs in excess of the new limits, they may not be paid for them if the state's position is upheld eventually.

The first veto session of the California legislature ended after the five days provided for in the constitution. Many felt it was a wasted week. None of Reagan's vetoes were overturned and it's not known how effective the Democrats were in bringing the spotlight on Reagan by criticizing his vetoes. The governor, himself, said he thought the session was worthwhile. At least this system requires the governor to provide a message with each veto, Reagan said. The governor noted that, during his eight years in office, Governor Edmund G. Brown vetoed more than 1,000 bills and made explanations only for a handful of them.

Financial shortages in the state's \$2 billion-plus state water project can be met through several alternative methods, William R. Gianelli, state director of water resources, has reported. Gianelli's comments came following the report of a task force which said the state could be short by some \$300 million in 1971 and have a deficit of up to \$600 million over the long haul. Gianelli's optimism was based on sev-

eral factors: 1) negotiation of a favorable contract for sale of surplus power from Oroville dam to private companies will permit the state to market \$40 million more in revenue bonds than had been expected; 2) the favorable power contract will permit use of up to \$100 million in miscellaneous funds which previously had to be held in reserve; and 3)

A Roundup of Events On Capitol Scene

indications are the U. S. army corps of engineers may build the Dos Rios dam on the Eel River, thus freeing state funds which would have gone for that project.

Personnel changes made some news in the capitol last week. Although he had been reappointed as director of public works only in July, John C. (Chuck) Errica was fired abruptly to be replaced by Samuel B. Nelson, 65, former general manager of the Los Angeles department of water and power. Governor Reagan, said the move was made at the request of Gordon C. Luce, administrator of the transportation agency. Also departing will be Jack Cooper, former newsman who has been secretary to the highway commission, Winifred W. Adams, 60, former executive with the Republican state central committee and an assistant to the resources agency administrator, has been appointed Reagan's cabinet secretary. Frank Reynolds, 40, San Diego, who has been administrative assistant to Senator John F. McCarthy, R-San Rafael, has been appointed deputy director of the department of professional and vocational standards, a \$17,500 a year post. The department supervises the more than one million persons in various businesses and professions which are licensed by the state.

A Southern California group has filed articles of incorporation under the name of "The Rumford Act Repeal Committee." The group stated its purpose would be to operate for the repeal of the housing act, adopted in 1963, which prohibits discrimination in the sale or rental of property, because of race, creed, color, religion or national origin. The people voted to repeal the Rumford Act in 1964 but, because the initiative contained other features, it was held unconstitutional by the U. S. supreme court. Attempts by the legislature to repeal or modify the Rumford Act this year fell by the wayside. Bouncing checks may cost

some depositors more than they have bargained for. The state department of banking has called on all banks to set firm policies for service charges for such things as overdrafts and to send schedules of the charges to the superintendent of banks, James M. Hall. Hall said some banks charged as much as \$5 for a single overdraft. He said he felt attention should be called to the banks to what might become a problem area.

The crackdown of the department of alcoholic beverage control on trade practices has brought filing of accusations against two prominent San Francisco Bay area licensees, Max Sobel Wholesale Liquors, Inc., San Francisco, was charged on 18 counts of offering illegal discounts to retailers and eight counts of giving unlawful samples. The Beaulieu Vineyard, Inc., of Rutherford in Napa county, was charged on eight counts of giving illegal free samples of wine to bay area restaurants. The department has launched the biggest investigation of trade practices in the 11-year history of the department.

WILLIAM HOGAN

Mailer Takes Grim View Of Texans as a Species

There's one thing about Norman Mailer — he's the biggest literary conversation piece since Hemingway. Whatever he produces turns out to be big news — the super egotism of "Advertisements for Myself," for example — and whatever he does, he does well. There are few who would argue that Mailer is anything less than one of the most brilliant writing talents of his time. Yet what he does with his talent is, even to his most ardent admirers, frequently disturbing. What he produces often seems a corruption of talent, and to a degree this is true of his latest exercise in "evil-speak" (he calls it a novel) titled "Why Are We in Vietnam?"

Well, the first thing one sees is that this has nothing to do with Vietnam; or if it does, the approach is so oblique that one can read any interpretation into it he chooses. What is in this book — apart from a staggering supply of epithets, vulgarisms, and a vocabulary of sexual outrage almost Medieval in its diabolical elo-

AFFAIRS OF STATE

Statewide Drive Mounted To Limit Property Taxes

By HENRY C. MacARTHUR
Capital News Service
SACRAMENTO — Failure of the California legislature to enact any kind of property tax reform may result in some drastic action by the people of the state next year.

Already, the legislative council has been requested to put an initiative into shape in what is a grassroots movement to combat the growing trend of high taxes at the local level on property.

The request for the initiative was made by Sam Shannon, farmer of Yuba City, Sutter County, who heads a group of farmers from his own county, Yuba, Butte, and Colusa.

The proposal, still in the stages of preparation, would ask a constitutional amendment limiting taxation on property to one per cent per year of market value.

A clause has been suggested that if the voters of any area want to exceed the limitation, they could do so by a two-thirds vote in the area concerned.

"The taxes on property," said Shannon, "rapidly are reaching the confiscatory point, where people who

own farms and urban real property as well, can no longer afford to pay them.

"As a result, a limitation on property taxes is necessary. The state legislature has not accomplished tax reform of any kind, and consequently it is up to the people of the state to take some action."

Shannon, who lives at 7871 Garden Highway in

News and Opinions On Sacramento Beat

Yuba City, said he will solicit the support of farm organizations throughout the state, as well as county taxpayer associations, to assist in obtaining the required signatures for submitting the proposition to the people.

"The measure no doubt will find wide support," he declared, "as property owners are fast approaching the end of the rope as far as their ability to meet the requirements of government are concerned."

He also pointed out that statewide passage of such a measure would require the legislature to adopt some form of property taxation

reform, and as well would act as a restraint on the spending proclivities of local governments.

The legislature for the past several years has had tax reform under consideration. It was shelved at this year's session when the lawmakers found they were confronted with a huge deficit and shortage of funds. They were virtually forced to adopt a billion dollar tax increase in state taxes, and as a result, there was no margin for the effectuation of property tax reform, although it was a major proposal.

The movement headed by Shannon mirrors the thinking of people throughout the state, who are being levied for high taxes with no prospect either of leveling off, or reductions, in the foreseeable future.

The farmers group at least has made a start in the process of doing something constructive about the matter, and if the initiative qualifies, the people will have the privilege of voting to determine whether or not the upward spiraling process of taxation will continue.

ROYCE BRIER

Was the Governor Really Brainwashed in Vietnam?

The term "Brainwash" came into the public consciousness at the time of the Korean war, though the process was known to psychiatrists in World War II.

There are several methods of brain-washing, so-called, and all have been described minutely by victims. These have usually been soldiers who, for various personal or temperamental reasons, are disgruntled with their own country and its military service.

One method is confinement in a small, hot cell, with a bright light shining in the subject's eyes. This continues for several hours, and from time to time the brainwasher may deliver a propaganda harangue through a grating. The result, depending on the duration, is an increasing physical and psychological deterioration of the subject. In due time he is unable to distinguish right from wrong, truth from falidity, sense from nonsense.

When he is in a zombie state he is given a cigarette or a drink, and a demand is made on him to make state-

ments or sign "confessions" incriminating himself and praising his captors.

As in hypnosis, which the process resembles, some subjects are more susceptible than others, some do not remain brainwashed after the pressure is ended, and some cannot be brainwashed at all.

In the case of the Korean turncoats, brainwashing was

Opinions on Affairs of the World

tried on hundreds of soldiers, and only a score succumbed. Most of these gradually recovered a sense of reality. In the World War, the Russians and the Germans used the system extensively, but it is doubtful if the results were worth all the bother.

In view of this (which is easily checked in thousands of psychological studies of the phenomenon), the statement of Governor George Romney, of Michigan, that he was "brainwashed" by generals and diplomatic offi-

cers on a 1965 trip to Vietnam, is downright preposterous.

What the Governor meant to say was that the generals and their aides, and the diplomatic officers headed by the then Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, tried to persuade him the Vietnam intervention was morally and politically justified, and that it could be carried off successfully.

This, if you please, may be called propaganda (a value always attributed to the suspicion of the other fellow), but it was really nothing more sinister than persistent argument. The Governor might encounter the same thing at home if he wanted an important highway in a certain place, and his highway commissioners wanted it elsewhere, and pressed their reasons on him in a meeting in his office.

That Mr. Lodge and General Westmoreland thought they were right in 1965 is not astonishing, nor is it astonishing that they, and others of comparable rank, have not changed their minds in the past two years.

It is Mr. Romney who has changed his mind, he says. But he used an odd, inarticulate and highly implausible way of making it known. A large segment of Americans, many bitterly opposed to the Vietnam war and the way it is being handled, will put it down as a political afterthought, and not a happy one.

Alan Grey Says . . .

The Senate is considering . . .
A way to ease the strains . . .
Of running for public office . . .
And the cost of such campaigns . . .
This bill before the Senate . . .
Is something fairly new . . .
To help finance elections . . .
For presidents and senators too . . .
To run for public office . . .
This bill would make it fair . . .
A man could now be qualified . . .
Not just a millionaire.